

Her Majesty's Consulate
Jerusalem December 23rd 1873

Sir

I have the honour to report that a few days ago Hamid Pasha, Governor of Jerusalem, and the French Consul, proceeded to Bethlehem for the purpose of repairing the damages to the Latin Altar and pavement in the Grotto of the Nativity, and to the windows of the Basilica, resulting from the affray of the 25th of April. In both cases difficulties occurred. The Latins had prepared a piece of marble for patching one of the damaged columns, on which the Franciscan Monogram was engraved; to this the Greeks objected and were supported by the Pasha, who stationed

His Excellency The Right Honourable

Sir Henry Elliot G. C. B.

H. His Ambassador Extraordinary
Constantinople

N^o 19

to be sent Home

Copy

Consular Agent Constantinople
to Consul Home

Jerusalem Dec. 23rd 1873

Difference with Latin known

1008.

N^o 4

In Consul Home deposited
No 18 of Dec. 15th 1873

a meeting to present its long paper until
the Latins proposed to visit, if they could,
from Constantinople authorizing its use.

The house windows in the
Basilica were next attended to, the Basilica
is claimed by the Greeks as their cathedral,
they therefore contend that they have the sole
right to make reparations in it. The Latins
dispute this claim, asserting that the Basilica
is in common. In the present instance the
Turkish Authority made itself the referee,
but in presence of the Conciliator of the
French Consulate, who attended as Latin
delegates at the fixing of the new frames
and glass of glass. This is considered
by the Greeks as a violation of their right
against which they have protested.

Besides the principal claims
to their church, the Latins are in the habit
of using a path running through the Greek

Cemetery adjoining the Church of the Nativity
which leads to a side entrance into their
establishment. A short time ago, a Greek died
at Bethlehem, and it became necessary to open a
long disused family vault for the burial of the
corpse. The path in question runs over the
roof of this vault. The Latins opposed the burial
on the ground that the new grave to be made
would intercept the path, and appealed to the
French Consul. The matter having been
brought to the knowledge of the Governor, he
authorised the Greeks to bury their dead in the
spot in question, but not to build any stone wall
over the new grave for a few days during
which the Latins are to produce any proofs
they may possess entitling them to the right
of way over the path. The French Consul is
not disposed to support the Latins any further
in this claim. Such proceedings
cannot fail to increase the irritation of the
rival sects against each other.

The Papstly for the Grotto has
not yet been received from France, where it is
being manufactured. The Greeks declare they
will not suffer it to be placed in the
Grotto if it has any Latin inscription or
mark, which, however, it is to have, like the
original one it is destined to replace.

I have the honour to be
with great respect, Sir

Your Excellency's
Most obedient
Humble servant
NorDenph Moore

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Her Majesty's Consulate
Jerusalem December 27th 1873

Sir

Fearing lest my original
despatch, N^o 16, may have miscarried, I have
the honour to transmit to Your Excellency
herewith a duplicate thereof, with its
inclosures.

I beg leave to add that up
to the present date the claims in question
remain where that despatch left them.

I have the honour to be
with great respect, Sir

Your Excellency's
Most obedient

Humble servant

His Excellency The Right Honourable NorDungh Moore

Sir Henry Elliot, G. C. B.

H. Mi' Ambassador Extraordinary
Constantinople

N^o 20

1873

Jerusalem January 23rd

Consul Moore

N^o 19

Rec^d

by Post

Wolff's Affairs. Repairs

in the Church of the Nativity
and disputes among Reformers

1039.